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LETTER DATED 5 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to request that the units of the Army of Yugoslavia and the Serbian police personnel return to Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, principles 6 and 10 of annex 2 to that resolution and the second part of paragraph 4 (a) of the military-technical agreement (S/1999/682, annex).

The return of the units of the Army of Yugoslavia and the Serbian police personnel will avert the exodus of the Serbs, Montenegrins and other non-Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija, facilitate their return to this Serbian province and, by extension, help maintain its multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious nature.

In this connection, I draw your attention to the fact that the indifference of the United Nations security and civilian presences in carrying out their obligations under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) has resulted in a continued deterioration of the security situation of the non-Albanian population of Kosovo and Metohija, of which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has warned the Security Council on a number of occasions.

Having carried out all of its obligations under Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the military-technical agreement, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is ready to proceed to make and implement an arrangement concerning the said matter. It therefore calls upon the Security Council to take, in accordance with its mandate and the provisions of resolution 1244 (1999), urgent and effective measures to enable the units of the Army of Yugoslavia and the Serbian police personnel to return to Kosovo and Metohija.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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I have been instructed by my Government to draw your attention to the construction of military bases by the United States contingent of the United Nations security presence in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, at Urosevac, Podujevo and Pec. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has already lodged its protest over the matter in my letter to the President of the Security Council of 10 September 1999 (S/1999/965).

The construction of the bases runs counter to the Ahtisaari-Chernomyrdin Agreement, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and the Kumanovo Military-Technical Agreement. It is also a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which has never ceded any part of its territory, nor has it agreed to having it used for the construction of foreign military bases. The construction is telling proof that the United States Government cares little about the political solution of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija, and that its main concern is to occupy part of the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and establish a long-term presence in the autonomous province of its constituent Republic of Serbia under the guise of participating in the United Nations security presence. Much light on the intentions of the United States Government is shed by the article "Home sweet home in Kosovo", carried by The Washington Post on 5 October 1999 (see annex).

In building the bases, the United States abuses the Security Council, under whose auspices the United Nations security and civil presences have been deployed in Kosovo and Metohija, for military expansion in South-East Europe, in contravention of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), which guarantee the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Bearing that in mind, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia demands from the Security Council to take energetic measures to prevent the violation of its resolution 1244 (1999) and the attempts by a foreign power to occupy a part of

the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity in an apparent drive to destabilize the country and the entire region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Home Sweet Home in Kosovo

High-Security U.S. Base Will Have All the Creature Comforts

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Foreign Service

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Yugoslavia—The Pentagon is building a spanking new community here in south-central Kosovo at a cost of tens of millions of dollars to house U.S. peacekeeping troops in a little piece of home— complete with Burger King and discounted American candy bars.

The aim of the installation is to safeguard the bulk of the U.S. military stationed in Kosovo in a sealed environment with as much comfort as possible and maximum protection against attack. The scale of the 775-acre site and the substantial construction under way, which raises immense clouds of dust over the devastated countryside, suggest the United States plans to have its troops hunkered down in Kosovo for a long time.

The base, about a mile east of Urosevac, seems to do justice to the American military's reputation for going in heavy and making a large footprint. It is already attracting gibes from officers in European brigades also deployed here as part of the NATO-led peacekeeping force. They have dubbed the base "Disneyland" and suggest the concentration of so many soldiers in a single, isolated location will hinder their ability to perform peacekeeping tasks.

An estimated 4,860 U.S. soldiers, or roughly 77 percent of those deployed in Kosovo, reside at the camp behind dozens of earthen berms, 10 miles of barbed wire, 11 guard towers and countless concrete barriers. The base is meant to recreate a homelike atmosphere within a wall of impenetrable security, separating the troops from Kosovo's destruction, anguish and hazards.

"It is an obvious sign that the Americans are making a major commitment to the Balkan region and plan to stay," said a senior British officer. "But their desire to drive the risk of casualties to an absolute zero can be a major distraction."

U.S. soldiers guard Camp Bondsteel, where a "safe environment," complete with a Burger King, takes priority over other goals.

THE WASHINGTON POST

When they are not on duty, the soldiers can visit a chapel, fitness center or a hospital; soon they will also have three recreation centers, a library and a food court rivaling those in American shopping malls. "This was a wheat field," said Maj. Jimmie Kennan, the hospital's chief nurse. "Now, it's a metropolis."

American officers said construction, which began in late July, will cost more than $32 million in its initial phase. They said the base offers a sensible and efficient way to house U.S. forces here and maintain morale. But it is also an emblem of the Clinton administration's concern with security in peacekeeping operations, sometimes at the expense of other objectives.

U.S. officers said the preoccupation arose from the deaths of U.S. Army Rangers in a botched operation in 1993 during a peacekeeping mission in Somalia, which led Congress to demand the withdrawal of U.S. troops. Since then, U.S. officials have worried that even a few U.S. casualties will endanger the political consensus for intervention in Kosovo, even though polling by the University of Maryland and others suggests the public is less allergic to such deaths than politicians.

In Kosovo, self-protection is listed in the mission statement as the foremost objective of the U.S. military brigade responsible for a quarter of the province's territory. Peacekeeping tasks, such as maintaining "a safe and secure environment" and supporting the United Nations to build a civil society, receive lesser priority.

This translates into a welter of military rules that limit how U.S. soldiers operate in Kosovo. For example, any soldier who ventures outside Camp Bondsteel must first don 35 pounds of body armor and a thick Kevlar helmet. Moreover, the troops must travel either by helicopter or in convoys of armored vehicles, since the site is too remote to make foot patrols feasible.

Conducting such "mounted patrols" puts distance between the soldiers and the Kosovo citizens they are obliged to protect, many U.S. soldiers acknowledged. Moreover, even when U.S. foot patrols are conducted elsewhere in Kosovo, such as in the tense city of Gnjilane, platoons do not always bring interpreters with them.

These tactics contrast with methods used here by British troops. The British forces are widely dispersed within north-central Kosovo, often in bases cordoned by white plastic tape instead of barbed wire and sandbags.

In urban areas, most British soldiers live in apartments and houses in tense neighborhoods, six to a flat. They patrol on foot in small numbers without helmets and often without heavy body armor, projecting a more relaxed style that they said puts them in closer touch with local residents.

"To wear body armor and a helmet is the wrong psychological approach," said a British officer who commands a company of roughly 100 troops in Pristina, the Kosovo capital. "It also makes you tired, so you can't concentrate. And a helmet makes you look down, instead of up. It's like being behind a desk."

None of the 5,400 British troops or 6,295 U.S. troops in

See KOSOVO, *A12, Col. 2*

WORLD NEWS

U.S. Soldiers Build A Home in Kosovo

KOSOVO, *From A11*

Kosovo has died in attacks by hostile forces since the U.N.-authorized peacekeeping mission began in mid-June, although some have been shot at, stabbed or attacked with grenades. Two U.S. soldiers were lightly wounded in the first month and a fifth American died last week when his parachute failed to open during a training exercise.

Col. Michael Ellerbe of Fayetteville, N.C., who commands the 3rd Battalion 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Urosevac, said he supports the protection measures. "If you have the equipment, why not use it? My own guys say, 'I can't mingle with the people if I'm wearing this.' But I hug 'em, I kiss 'em, the whole nine yards, and [the gear]...has no effect. It's a crock. They just don't want to wear it."

The city where his troops live was once ethnically mixed and tense. But it has calmed since all but 40 Serbs fled in the face of ethnic Albanian retribution after the war. Ellerbe said he nonetheless keeps the blinds closed on the front of the former police station where his troops are quartered. When he moves outside the gate, it is frequently in a convoy of green Humvees, along with a dozen or so men carrying automatic weapons.

Bogdan Glogovac, 76, one of the last Serbs in Urosevac, called Ellerbe "a good man" because he assigned 50 troops to guard the group around the clock against ethnic Albanians. But he also said U.S. Army officers told him they do not have enough soldiers to protect him. As a result, Glogovac had to give up his apartment and move in with another Serb who lives near an Army guard post surrounded by sandbags.

Ellerbe said stationing U.S. soldiers in homes would be an error. "If I were to cut loose 700 guys on this city—whose average age is 22—I'd be dealing with [local] fathers and mothers on other issues. It's not because they're bad guys, but because they don't understand the local culture. . . . It would also erode the trust" between families back home and married soldiers in his company. "If you take away all that temptation, you don't have to worry about that."

But Maj. Nick Welch, another British company commander in Pristina, said patrolling in pairs and staying close to the community allows his soldiers to "get under the skin of the place . . . to establish a database on the pattern of life and determine who's doing what, to have a cup of coffee with everybody. It's in the training we got from Northern Ireland to look for something that doesn't fit in."

For 100 soldiers, he added, his company employs 21 interpreters, nearly four times more than the American soldiers in Gnjilane.

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LETTER DATED 6 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991 and in the light of your report of 24 September 1999 (S/1999/1006), the members of the Security Council have reviewed the question of the termination or continuation of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) and its modalities of operation.

I have the honour to inform you that the members of the Council concur with your recommendation that UNIKOM be maintained. In accordance with resolution 689 (1991), they have decided to review the question once again by 6 April 2000.

(Signed) Sergey V. LAVROV
President of the Security Council

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